

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 184568 TOSEC 080152

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: EVENING TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, AUGUST 5

NO. 17

NEWSPAPERS

CSM DANIEL SOUTHERLAND FROM DAMASCUS

LEAD: "A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PLO SAYS SECSTATE VANCE'S
MISSION TO THE MIDEAST WILL FAIL BECAUSE VANCE IS 'IGNORING
THE PLO AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.'"

OTHER POINTS:

-- ABDEL MOHSEIN ABU MAIZER, SPOKESMAN FOR PLO EXEC
COMMITTEE, TOLD SOUTHERLAND THAT ASSAD WOULD NEVER AGREE
TO CURRENT US APPROACH TO A PEACE SETTLEMENT.

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-- ABU MAIZER ALSO CRITICAL OF PRES. CARTER'S OFFER TO
OPEN TALKS WITH PLO IF THEY'D ACCEPT ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE
OR AGREE TO UN RES'S 338 AND 242.

-- "DIPLOMATS DISCLOSED" THAT FRANCE TRYING TO GET EC
APPROVAL ON PROPOSAL FOR MODIFICATION OF UN RES 242, SO

AS TO REFER SPECIFICALLY TO PALESTINIANS. STRESSED IDEA ONLY IN FORMATIVE STAGE.

-- "I THINK THE VANCE TRIP WILL BE A FAILURE," SAID ABU MAIZER.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE -- JOHN MACLEAN FROM DAMASCUS

LEAD: "ASSAD THURSDAY REJECTED EGYPT'S PROPOSED 'WORKING GROUPS' AS A FORERUNNER TO A GENEVA CONFERENCE ON ME PROBLEMS AND TOOK A DIPLOMATIC SLAP AT SADAT FOR FAILING TO CONSULT SYRIA ON THE IDEA."

OTHER POINTS:

-- ASSAD COMPLAINED THAT WORKING GROUPS WOULD COMPETE AS PRINCIPAL FORUM WITH GENEVA CONFERENCE.

-- ASSAD ALSO SAID 2 DAYS OF TALKS WITH VANCE BROUGHT NO PROGRESS TOWARD GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT THAT PREPARATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE.

-- AMERICAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE ASSAD WOULD SIGN PEACE TREATY NOW WITH ISRAEL BUT HAS NO INTENTION OF YIELDING TO ISRAELI DEMAND FOR FULL ECON AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AS PART OF PEACE SETTLEMENT.

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LOS ANGELES TIMES -- OSWALD JOHNSTON FROM DAMASCUS

LEAD: "ASSAD REJECTED THURSDAY A US-SUPPORTED EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL FOR PRELIMINARY ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS NEXT MONTH AND INSTEAD URGED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION REDOUBLE ITS EFFORTS TO CONVENE A FORMAL ME PEACE CONFERENCE AT GENEVA."

OTHER POINTS:

-- ASSAD SAID HE COULD SEE NOTHING IN THE VANCE MISSION TO MAKE GENEVA SEEM CLOSER BUT ENDORSED US PEACE INITIATIVE AND BY IMPLICATION DEMANDED INCREASED US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL.

-- ASSAD SEEMED ANXIOUS TO AVOID BLAMING VANCE BUT TREATED WORKING GROUP IDEA AS A BLUNDER BY SADAT.

-- ASSAD'S MAJOR DEMAND WAS STOP TREATING QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA AS PROCEDURAL AND ACCEPT IT AS BASIC TO WHOLE DISPUTE.

WIRE SERVICES

UPI -- JIM ANDERSON FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "VANCE SAID FRIDAY HE IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO PAVE THE WAY FOR ME PEACE TALKS DESPITE MAJOR SET BACK TO HIS PLANS FROM ASSAD."

OTHER POINTS:

-- ARAB DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID ASSAD'S NON-ACCEPTANCE OF WORKING GROUP WAS NOT MEANT AS ABSOLUTE REJECTION AND THAT IT WAS CONDITIONAL. THE CONDITION WAS ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE
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OF PLO REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA.

-- US OFFICIALS SAID VANCE LIKELY TO RETURN BRIEFLY TO SYRIA AND EGYPT FOR FURTHER TALKS AFTER HIS STOP IN ISRAEL.

-- TALKS IN JORDAN EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON FUTURE OF WEST BANK AREA.

AP -- BARRY SCHWEID FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "VANCE MET HUSSEIN TODAY AFTER VOWING TO FIND A 'NECESSARY CONSENSUS' FOR AN ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT. PRES CARTER SAID IN WASHINGTON HE THOUGHT GENEVA PEACE TALKS COULD STILL BE HELD THIS YEAR."

OTHER POINTS:

-- ASKED IF PEACE TALKS STILL PROBABLE, CARTER SAID, "I THINK SO". WOULD PALESTINIANS BE REPRESENTED? CARTER REPLIED, "I'LL WAIT UNTIL LATER" TO MAKE A JUDGMENT.

-- AMERICAN SOURCES SAID WORKING GROUPS STILL COULD BE HELD IF JORDAN AGREES BUT WOULD HAVE LITTLE IMPACT WITHOUT SYRIA.

REUTERS -- ROY GUTMAN FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "VANCE, VISITING HIS FOURTH NATION IN A MISSION THAT HAS SO FAR PRODUCED NO VISIBLE RESULTS, TODAY STRONGLY REAFFIRMED US DETERMINATION TO PRESS FOR ME PEACE TALKS.

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OTHER POINTS:

-- INDICATION OF WASHINGTON'S DETERMINATION TO WORK FOR

PEACE CAME WHEN US OFFICIALS SAID VANCE WOULD RETURN TO EGYPT, SYRIA, AND JORDAN BEFORE RETURNING TO US.

EVENING TELEVISION

NBC'S CHANCELLOR: IN AMMAN, JORDAN, ON HIS MIDEAST PEACE MISSION, SECRETARY VANCE SAID HE WOULD FIND A CONSENSUS FOR AN ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE SETTLEMENT. AIDES TO THE SECRETARY SAID HE MIGHT EVEN ADOPT THE SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY STYLE OF HENRY KISSINGER IN ORDER TO FIND THAT CONSENSUS.

AND IN WASHINGTON, PRES CARTER SAID HE STILL THINKS A GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE IS POSSIBLE.

CARTER: I STILL BELIEVE THAT ALL THE LEADERS IN THE ME GENUINELY WANT TO HAVE PEACE ON THEIR OWN TERMS, BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE AND DEPART FROM THEIR OWN PREVIOUS TERMS IF THEY FEEL THAT THEY CAN HAVE THEIR OWN SECURITY GUARANTEED AND (INAUDIBLE) FROM THE CONSTANT THREAT OF WAR.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK GENEVA IS STILL A PROBABILITY?

CARTER: I THINK SO.

ABC'S WALTERS: IN OTHER NEWS, PRESIDENT CARTER SAID TODAY THAT A MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IS STILL PROBABLE THIS YEAR THIS DESPITE SYRIA'S REFUSAL TO TAKE PART IN PRELIMINARY TALKS. MEANWHILE SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE FLEW FROM SYRIA TO JORDAN TODAY FOR MEETINGS WITH KING HUSSEIN.

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CBS'S MUDD: PRES CARTER INSISTED TODAY THAT SYRIA'S REJECTION OF THE US-EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL FOR ME PEACE TALKS WAS NOT FINAL AND HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT FULL-SCALE ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE.

SCHEIFFER: DESPITE THE EXTREMELY PESSIMISTIC REPORTS COMING OUT OF THE ME, PRES CARTER SOUGHT TO PUT A MORE

OPTIMISTIC CAST ON THE SITUATION, SUGGESTING AS HE MET WITH A FEW REPORTERS TODAY, THAT ALL THE ME LEADERS ARE STILL JUST JOCKEYING FOR POSITION.

CARTER: I THINK IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO ATTACH TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO NEWS REPORTS AND PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETINGS, BECAUSE THERE ARE LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF OPTIONS BEING DISCUSSED WITH EACH ONE OF THESE LEADERS. ALMOST ALL OF THEM ARE ELECTING

TO MAKE A UNILATERAL STATEMENT UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE OTHERS MIGHT BE.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK GENEVA IS STILL A PROBABILITY?

CARTER: I THINK SO, YES.

QUESTION: WITH PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION?

CARTER: I'LL WAIT UNTIL LATER.

SCHEIFFER: THAT LAST REMARK ABOUT THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION UNDERSCORES THE REAL CRUX OF THE DISPUTE. IT'S RECOGNIZED HERE AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE THAT UNLESS THE PALESTINIAN ROLE IN THE CONFERENCE CAN BE WORKED OUT TO THE SATISFACTION OF ALL CONCERNED, THEN THE SITUATION WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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REMAIN A STATEMENT. AND DESPITE MR. CARTER'S OPTIMISM TODAY, THERE IS NO SUGGESTION HERE OR FROM THE ME THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAS YET MADE ANY PROGRESS IN RESOLVING THOSE PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

MUDD: AN UNDAUNTED SECRETARY VANCE TOOK HIS MIDEAST PEACE MISSION TO JORDAN TODAY, VOWING HE WOULD NOT BE DETERRED BY THE SYRIAN REJECTION. VANCE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO FIND THE NECESSARY CONSENSUS TO HELP NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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